

Checkmate? (God's Got One More Move!)



Painting - Checkmate by Moritz Retzsch, 1799

From before the Garden of Eden till now at this very moment that I pen this sermon there has been a spiritual warfare raging for the souls of mankind; this war will continue raging until the return of the King of Kings and the judgment of Satan, Lucifer, that Ole Devil is consummated in the Lake of Fire. The devil has attempted to usurp the throne of God from the time his pride consumed him and he thought himself equal with God.

Isaiah 14:12–14

¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

The devil believes he can outsmart God Almighty, always believing he is one step ahead; no matter what the devil thinks or believes he stands no chance; every move he makes thinking he has won; he fails to realize that God has one more move!

Checkmate- Painting by Moritz Retzsch 1799

Two protagonists are facing each other across the chessboard. On one side of the painting is the Devil looking rather confident and on the other is a young man looking rather pensive as he believes he is losing. His soul is at stake as an angel watches over the young man. The chessboard represents in life our human struggles, defeats, victories, course correction, and achievements. As the young man with his head down already seems defeated as if there is no hope

One day a Chess Master looks at the painting hanging in the Louvre Museum in Paris. He studied the arrangement of the pieces left on the chessboard and noticed something many people did not. He suddenly realizes that the situation is not hopeless how the young man could not only escape the situation, but win the match

“Not Checkmate!” “The King has one more move.”

THE DEVIL MAKES A MOVE

The devil has been attempting to destroy the creation of God from the moment he rebelled against God; what the devil could not rule he would attempt to destroy.

Genesis 3:3-6

¹ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The serpent thought to destroy mankind through the rebellion of pride; to tempt Adam and Eve to desire to be like God as he had desired (“ye shall be as gods”); so, he deceived them; thinking God would destroy His creation and that which he (the devil) couldn't rule would be destroyed; the devil thought he had checkmate; but God has one more move!

Genesis 3:14–15

¹⁴ And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6–7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, Upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, To order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice From henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The devil thought he would win but God had one more move; He would not destroy His creation; but would rather send them a Savior; the Lord Jesus Christ! God would save Noah and his family from the judgment of the flood thus preserving the bloodline of which Jesus Christ would come! God had one more move!

MIDDLE GAME

Exodus 1:15–17

¹⁵ And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiprah, and the name of the other Puah:

¹⁶And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

¹⁷But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

The devil failed in the Garden, for God would send a Savior; but the devil was not done. He now seeks to prevent the coming seed promised in the Garden that would “bruise his head” (Gen 3:15). The devil will now seek to destroy God’s chosen people through which the promised seed would come. Checkmate?!

But God had one more move!

Exodus 2:2-10

² And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi. ² And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was a goodly child*, she hid him three months. ³ And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid *it* in the flags by the river’s brink. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

⁵ And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river’s side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. ⁶ And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This *is one* of the Hebrews’ children. ⁷ Then said his sister to Pharaoh’s daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? ⁸ And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ And Pharaoh’s daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

Moses would lead the Hebrews out of Egypt; God’s people would not be destroyed; but would escape and Moses would lead the way. God’s chosen people would reach the promised land and eventually be established as a nation, the bloodline of the coming Messiah would be preserved. God had one more move!

THE QUEEN

The devil will continue to try and thwart the plan of the Almighty; his pride blinds him into believing he can outwit God and defeat the King of Kings.

Esther 3:5-6

⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. ⁶ And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, *even* the people of Mordecai.

Esther 3:8-11

⁸ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it *is* not for the king’s profit to suffer them. ⁹ If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king’s treasuries. ¹⁰ And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy. ¹¹ And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

Once again, the devil makes his move to destroy God's chosen people and the coming Messiah perhaps, he thinks this time it's checkmate; but God has one more move! Haman wished to do Mordecai harm because Mordecai would not bow down to him. Haman had built gallows to hang him; but God had one more move, Queen Esther. The Queen would intervene on behalf of her people and King Ahasuerus would also hear of the good Mordecai had done unto him. (Est 6:1-2).

Esther 7:1-10

⁷ So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. ² And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? and it shall be performed, *even* to the half of the kingdom. ³ Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

⁴ For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. ⁵ Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? ⁶ And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. ⁷ And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath *went* into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

⁸ Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther *was*. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. ⁹ And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Such it is for those that do the devils work and are pawns in his evil snares, like Haman; it always leads to one's ruin and destruction.

The devil has been outwitted again; his evil devices fail and God has defeated him once again; God always has one more move! But the war continues.

FORCED MATE

Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The devil is not done, his pride and lust drive him; he remembers the words of God Almighty from The Garden ¹⁴ *And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle,*

and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

The devil makes his move.

Matthew 2:1-3

² Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ³ When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod would try to deceive the wisemen into taking him to the child Jesus; but the wisemen would not fall for the deception and Herod was wroth and the devil would seek the blood of the innocents to try and complete his plan of stopping the Messiah, the voice of God still thundering in his ears “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*

Matthew 2:16

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

The Devil sought the destruction of the Messiah; he failed to prevent His coming; his only move now to destroy the child; but again, he will fail. God had one more move!

Matthew 2:13–15

¹³ And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: ¹⁵ And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

BLUNDER

The devil loses again but pride and delusion drive him on and he will continue to attack. The devil cannot understand the full plan of God; he still thinks that by destroying the Messiah he will defeat the plan of God, ah but if he only knew; but yet again the devil makes his move.

Matthew 26:14–16

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵ And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

John 13:21-27

²¹ When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.** ²² Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. ²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. ²⁵ He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

²⁶ Jesus answered, **He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it.** And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷ And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, **That thou doest, do quickly.**

The devil has blundered and has been trapped in his own game, he has put the Messiah right where He had planned to be, on a hill called Golgotha and upon the Cross of Calvary, the redemption of mankind will now be made possible. God had one more move!

John 14:1-7

7 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? **6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.**

John 19:28-30

²⁸ After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.** ²⁹ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

From the garden to the cross, the devil has blundered, salvation is possible through the perfect Lamb of God. Man fell in Eden, the Garden of God, and in Gethsemane, the Garden of man, was salvation made possible. From Garden to Garden and from Manger to Cross the plan of God was completed.

CHILDREN OF GOD, PAWNS OF SATAN

Yet the battle still rages; now the strategy of Satan is to destroy the souls of man and have them condemned with him in eternal damnation. Satan's move now is to bring death and destruction into the lives of all who will follow him and reject the Living God.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The devil will seek to rule in the lives of those who love the world and the things of it, this will lead to the devil ruling in your life and separating you from God; that is his evil scheme now that he has failed to prevent the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ from going to the cross and providing salvation to all who will believe. The manifestation of the schemes of the devil are:

2 Timothy 3:1-4

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

All these things are the fruits of the devil and his work through his pawns; which is all anyone is that follows him, a pawn to be sacrificed for his pride and arrogance, and hatred of God. Those who will follow him he will destroy when they have served his purpose. (Haman, Judas)

Satan will destroy the hearts of man with hatred, envy, strife, bitterness. war, death and destruction. These are his strategies for destroying that which he cannot rule.

Satan will destroy your:

Marriages

Children

Relationships

Finances

Your very soul

BUT ONLY IF YOU LET HIM!

Remember, The Living God, The One Who Died for You; Has One More Move!

1 John 3:8

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

John 3:16–18

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Hebrews 8:12

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Beloved, no matter how things may be going in your life; don't let the devil deceive you into believing it's checkmate and game over. God still rules from His throne and always remember that He has one more move in your life, if you will let Him!

Psalm 103:19

¹⁹ The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

CHECKMATE!

JESUS SAVES-To God Be the Glory

R.E.G.